

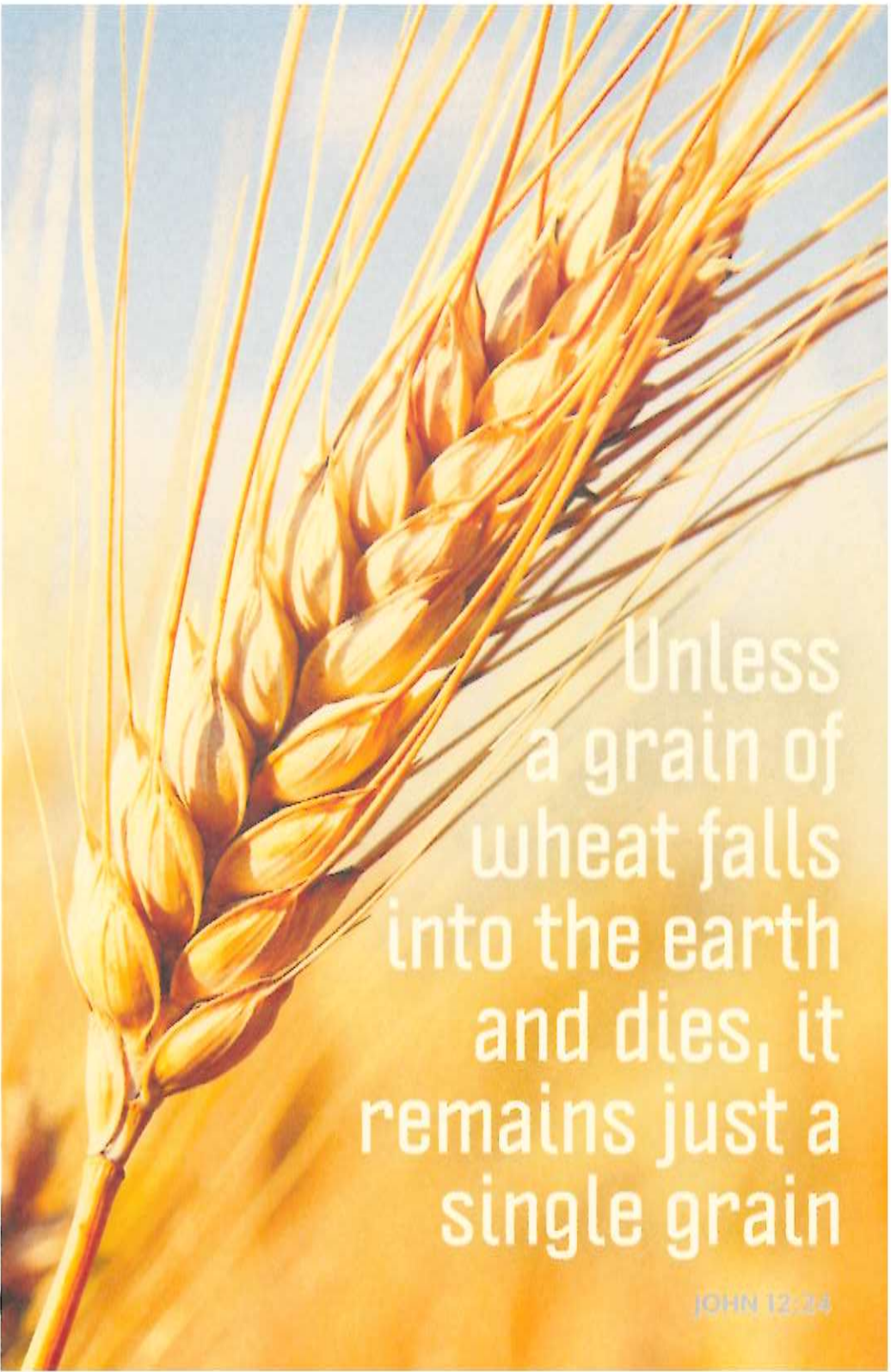
## Called Where Jesus Goes

It isn't only the first disciples who become uncomfortable when Jesus talked about his approaching death. We often do as well. Perhaps focusing on the crucifixion seems gruesome. Perhaps it conjures in us the (false) story of a divine parent who cannot forgive without punishing someone, with Jesus standing in as that one. Maybe it feels like a morbid emphasis on sin.

Jesus did not understand himself as the victim of divine punishment. He entered into suffering as a part of his glorification, working with—not against—his Father. He knows that human life has become twisted under the powers of sin and death so that if we grasp onto our “life in this world,” we will miss God’s gracious intention for us. Christ’s judgment of sin is not for our exclusion. Jesus never seeks to shame us, but condemns sin in order to deliver us from its power.

Perhaps, however, we shy away from talk of Christ’s death because we sense, on some level, that if our Lord must go to the cross, then so too must we. Jesus declares, “Whoever serves me must follow me.” Discipleship is a summons to die to ourselves and lose our life on this world’s terms. Paradoxically, this cruciform journey is the road to true fruitfulness and flourishing. It begins in our baptism and is nourished at the Lord’s table. It is sustained by the fellowship of faith, where together we hear the life-giving word of Jesus. It will find completion on the day of resurrection.

Our souls long for this way of salvation. Deep within us all, a voice whispers, “We wish to see Jesus.” God knows this need, so Jesus is lifted up to drive out the powers of sin and death. God’s unending mercy is displayed. For the same reason, we come together so that in hearing the word and sharing the eucharistic meal, and in our prayers, laments, and praises, Jesus may be lifted up to draw us, and all people, to salvation.



Unless  
a grain of  
wheat falls  
into the earth  
and dies, it  
remains just a  
single grain

JOHN 12:24



Millcreek Lutheran Church  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 17, 2024

Welcome, friends in Christ! We appreciate your presence here today. If you are a visitor, we hope you will consider joining us – knowing that you can expect to find people who love God and who want to know and love you. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you are here.

Prayer: Gracious God, who gave your Son a victorious death upon the cross, giving life to all who look to him: Direct us through our sinful existence to see his death as our source of salvation, that we may experience the new life for which he died. In his name we pray. Amen.

**The Service**

- Prelude of Entrance
- Announcements
- Prelude of Preparation
- \*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
- \*Opening Hymn: **No. 362 (LBW), *We Plow the Fields and Scatter***  
Greetings: Page 57, line 5
- \*The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6
- \*Prayer of the Day: On the lesson insert (read in unison)
- Children's Sermon
- The First Reading
- The Psalmody: On the lesson insert (read responsively)
- The Second Reading
- \*Return to the Lord: Page 63
- \*The Gospel
- \*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16
- The Sermon
- Hymn of the Day: **No. 479 (LBW), *My Faith Looks Up to Thee***
- \*The Nicene Creed: Page 65
- Choir Anthem: *Lamb of God*

- \*The Prayer: Page 76
- \*The Lord's Prayer: Page 71 (sung)
- \*The Benediction
- \*Departing Hymn: **No. 349 (NCH), *Precious Lord, Take My Hand***  
Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated
- Postlude
- \*Please stand

**Serving You This Morning:**

- Pastor,** The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
- Lay Leader,** Susan Long
- Organist/Pianist,** Debbie Tice
- Lay Reader,** Rachel Mock
- Ushers/Audio,** Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Today, the church invites us to remember Patrick, bishop, and missionary to Ireland, who died in 461. A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. He himself admitted that up to this point he cared little for God. After six years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there. In his autobiography he denounced the slave trade, perhaps from his own experience of being enslaved.

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of our fathers, George Hopple and Ray Strickler by Julie and Gerry Strickler.*

*The bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in honor of the 13<sup>th</sup> birthday of Arianna Robertson from her family. Happy Birthday Arianna!*



# Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 17, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,

says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

## Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12; tone 4



Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your <sup>1</sup>steadfast love;  
in your great compassion  
blot out <sup>1</sup>my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through  
<sup>1</sup>from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me <sup>1</sup>from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know <sup>1</sup>my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- <sup>1</sup>er before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil <sup>1</sup>in your sight;  
so you are justified  
when you speak  
and right <sup>1</sup>in your judgment.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born  
<sup>1</sup>steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my <sup>1</sup>mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth  
<sup>1</sup>deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom  
<sup>1</sup>deep within.

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop,  
and I <sup>1</sup>shall be clean;  
wash me,  
and I shall be pur- <sup>1</sup>er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear <sup>1</sup>joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken  
<sup>1</sup>I may rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face <sup>1</sup>from my sins,  
and blot out <sup>1</sup>all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean <sup>1</sup>heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- <sup>1</sup>it  
within me.

*continued*

*Psalm, continued*

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away  
<sup>1</sup>from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- <sup>1</sup>it  
from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of  
<sup>1</sup>your salvation  
and sustain me  
with your boun- <sup>1</sup>tiful Spirit.

or Psalm 119:9-16 [not printed]

## Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you";

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of  
Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with

loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## Gospel

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

<sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

TODAY'S READINGS March 17, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47].

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4 of 15  
Tracks 1 and 2

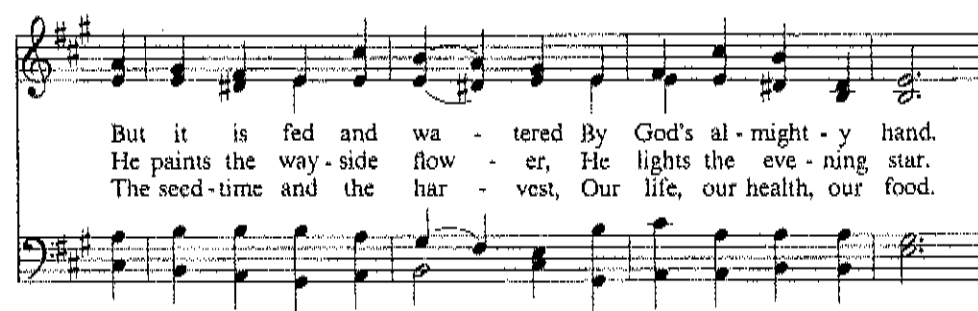


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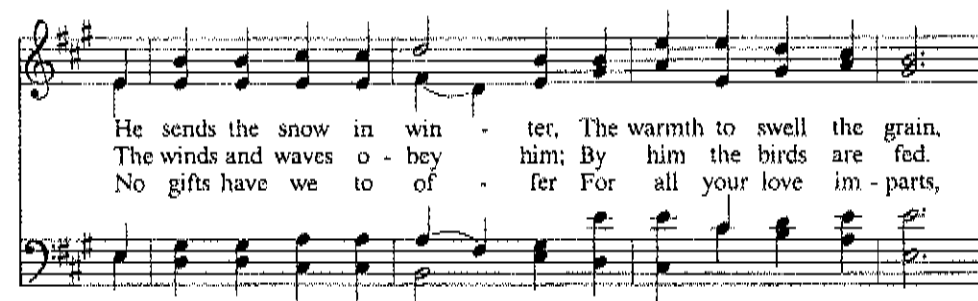
## We Plow the Fields and Scatter



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter The good seed on the land,  
2 He on - ly is the mak - er Of all things near and far;  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, For all things bright and good,



But it is fed and wa - tered By God's al - might - y hand.  
He paints the way - side flow - er, He lights the eve - ning star.  
The seed - time and the har - vest, Our life, our health, our food.



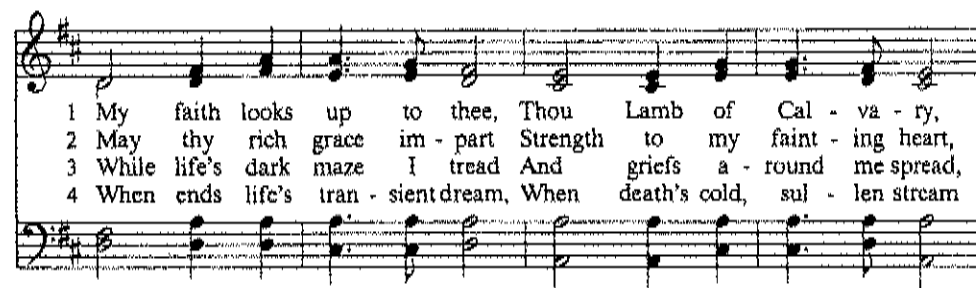
He sends the snow in win - ter, The warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey him; By him the birds are fed.  
No gifts have we to of - fer For all your love im - parts,



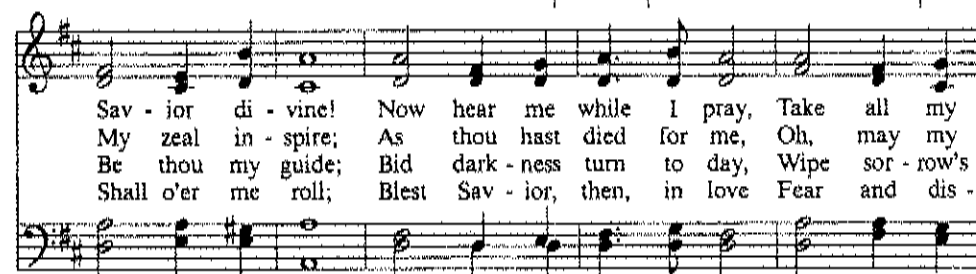
The breez - es and the sun - shine, And soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
Much more to us, his chil - dren, He gives our dai - ly bread.  
But what you most would trea - sure— Our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

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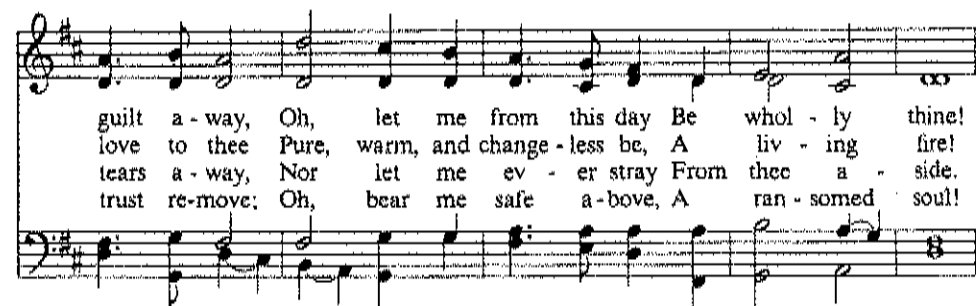
## My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my  
My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
Be thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
Shall o'er me roll; Blest Sav - ior, then, in love Fear and dis -



guilt a - way, Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.  
trust re - move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887  
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

OLIVER  
664 6664

# Take My Hand, Precious Lord 349

T.A.D.

*Prayerfully*

Thomas A. Dorsey



1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand; I am  
2. When my ways grows drear, Pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near; When my



tired, I am weak, I am worn; — Thru the storm, thru the night, Lead me  
life is al-most gone; — Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my



on to the light; Take my hand, Pre-cious Lord, lead me home. —  
hand lest I fall; Take my hand, Pre-cious Lord, lead me home. —

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"The Church on the Hill"

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pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

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### Our Mission

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Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

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### Sunday March 17, 2024

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You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 10:15 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.

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### Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

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**HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS DURING LENT:** The Sharing Cupboard food pantry has been a local food resource since 2008. It was started at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for people living in the ELCO School District who experience food insecurity. Since then, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of families needing help. Now they serve approximately 100 families monthly.

**THE SHARING CUPBOARD** asked area churches if they'd be willing to choose a month during the year to have a food drive. The Evangelism Committee at Millcreek Lutheran decided to take on this challenge and chose the month of March. Coincidentally, Lent and Easter are in March this year. The Committee will have an area in our church narthex for you to place your donations. **Please pick up a list of foods at that display that the pantry is saying they need.** This project will begin March 1 and end March 31. Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..."

Lists for information on Lenten services are on the table in the narthex. The next service (March 20 @ 7:00 PM) will be held at Grace UCC, 22 Church Street, Richland with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: Return to the Church - John 14:6-7. Light snacks/refreshments will be served after the service.

See the lavender insert for information on HOLY WEEK services and events.

**THE BLOOD DRIVE** is March 21, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. See the flyer included in the bulletin for more information.

**CAMP KIRCHENWALD SUMMER CAMP:** Pamphlets for camp registration are in the wall rack in the narthex. Camp Kirchenwald is holding an open house today from 2:00-4:30PM.

**THE FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST** 2024 annual membership drive is presently going on and will continue till March 31. By donating towards this membership drive Friends of Spang Crest help provide special activities and projects for the Spang Crest residents. In the last year Millcreek has lost two of its longtime faithful givers to this wonderful cause and we need some additional new faces to step in with any donation certainly appreciated. Last year Millcreek helped this cause by having 23 contributors and raising \$456 - please consider stepping forward this year if you didn't already. Please see Margie to contribute.

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### Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

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**TREASURER'S REPORT: March 10, 2024**-Current Offerings-\$710.00, Plate-40.00, Flowers-30.00, Building Rental-150.00.  
**Total-\$930.00** Sweet Sunday Total-336.00 Attendance-69, Sunday School-16

The members of the **Adult Sunday School class** invite you to join them on Sunday, March 17 as Pastor Scott presents a lesson on "Who was Saint Patrick...Really?" The class meets in the room across from the Choir Room from 9:15 AM until 1:00 AM.

**READERS FOR PALM SUNDAY** are needed for March 24<sup>th</sup> when we will be reading the Passion. Rehearsal for this will be the week prior (March 17) after church, if that works for everyone. There are Passion booklets & a signup sheet on the table in the narthex.

**EASTER EGG HUNT PRIZES:** Millcreek's annual egg hunt will be held on March 30. We are requesting prizes to be donated by the congregation for ages 0-12. Deadline for prizes is March 24. Prizes may be put in the Sunday School wing- last room on the right. Contact Nikki Johnson with questions - 717-639-1300.

**EGG HUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help the day of the egg hunt. There are signup sheets on the table in the narthex on the table. We need at least 10 volunteers to help the morning of the egg hunt. I will be at the church around 10 AM on April 30<sup>th</sup> to start putting the eggs out if people would like to come and help. Thank you! Nikki Johnson



2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

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Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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*Dear MLC Family, Thank you so much for the snacks and Subway Gift Card. It warms my heart and I really appreciate it. Much Love and God Bless, Julieanne Strickler*

*Thanks to everyone for the prayers, cards and phone calls during my hospital stay as well as at home. It was all greatly appreciated. I am doing much better. Thanks again, Lenny Ontkos*

**LOST RING:** A ring was found in the sanctuary last Sunday after the service. Please check with Linda if it may be yours.

**DAFFODIL ORDERS** arrive Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>. See Debbie Tice for details on delivery/pickup.

**SCRAP PAPER** is available in the office on the shelf to the far right for anyone interested. You will see it clearly marked. Feel free to take as much or as little as you may need.

**WEATHER ALERT:** In case of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service.

**THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:**

Audrey Putt, 201 West Main Street, Newmanstown, PA 17073

**IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.**

**NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) or 610-589-2570**

**MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST:** R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Lenny Ontkos, Barbara Potteiger, Nancy Sauter, Norm Sharp, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers





## *Easter Card Collection*

The Sunday School classes are making a craft and organizing gift bags for our members who are unable to attend church. The list of folks is on the table in the narthex. They are asking members for Easter cards to add to the craft and palm branch. We are requesting volunteers to deliver the card and gift bags. A delivery sign-up will be located next to the gift bags in front of the display case. Cards can be dropped in the gift bags now **through Palm Sunday.**

Thank you, Nikki Johnson SS Superintendent



## *Easter*

### **EGG HUNT**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

**AT 11 AM**

**PRIZES FOR ALL  
AGES 0-12**

*Millcreek Lutheran Church  
221 N. Sheridan RD,  
Newmanstown, PA 17073*

***EVENT HELD RAIN OR SHINE!***



## Holy Week at Millcreek

**“Thursday March 21 – 7 PM – Healing Service”**

**Sunday March 24 – Palm Sunday**

**Choir anthem-*On That Day When He Rode Into Jerusalem***

**Reading of Passion of Our Lord According to Mark**

**Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 PM**– Lenten service continues at Elias UCC, 9 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown with Pastor Scott Paradise speaking. Topic: Return to the Table – John 15:1-4

**Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday, Service @ Millcreek- 7:00 PM**

**Friday, March 29, 7:00 PM– GOOD FRIDAY** service at Richland Community Bible Church, 215 S. Race St., Richland with Pastor Jim Artz speaking. Topic: Return and See Life-John 10:10-11

**Saturday March 30 – Easter Egg Hunt- Held Rain or Shine**

10 AM – Prepare for egg hunt

11 AM - Infants thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Sunday March 31-Easter Service**

**ONE SERVICE @ 9 AM**

**Communion & Special Music**

**Special Activities for children**

*The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!*



# BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

**Millcreek Lutheran Church**

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

*In the Multipurpose Room*

Everyone will receive a Papa John's buy one Large pizza get one FREE certificate & a 3oz. bag of Beef Stick Bites from Stoltzfus Meats!



A form of ID is **REQUIRED** to donate

3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to [717GiveBlood.org](http://717GiveBlood.org) & click on
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code



**DONATE NOW**



**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



- We strongly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
- Walk-Ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.

## SHARING CUPBOARD

### WISH LIST

CEREAL

CRACKERS

COOKIES

TUNA

SPAM

CANNED CHICKEN

PEANUT BUTTER

SPAGHETTI SAUCE

PASTA MEALS

BEEFARONI

BEEF STEW

CHUNKY SOUPS

GRANOLA BARS

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

